Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 008784
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER/HLK
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NEA - MR. ATHERTON
S/S - PSBRIDGES (S/S
S/S-S - E. DENHAM
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P 140225Z JAN 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008784

NODIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PSDC, SY, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S FAREWELL MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

WITHIN A SHORT TIME, I WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE OVER-WORKED FRATERNITY OF THE WORLD'S FOREIGN MINISTERS, IN WHICH THE TWO OF US HAVE SHARED SEVERAL YEARS OF COMMON MEMBERSHIP. MORE IMPORTANT, WE SHARED IN THE BUILDING OF

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AN HISTORIC ENTERPRISE.

3. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION WAS ESTABLISHED TO BRING ABOUT A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THREE YEARS AGO, WE STARTED ON A JOURNEY TOGETHER TO REBUILD RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE UNITED STATES, AND TO WORK FOR A PEACEFUL

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SETTLEMENT IN YOUR AREA. WHILE THAT TASK IS NOT YET FINISHED, I BELIEVE WE CAN TAKE SATISFACTION IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE AND IN THE DETERMINATION OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO COMPLETE THE JOB.

4. I AM CONFIDENT THAT 1977 WILL WITNESS RENEWED PROGRESS TOWARDS THE GOALS WHICH SYRIA AND THE UNITED STATES HOLD IN COMMON. SYRIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESENT ENCOURAGING STATE OF AFFAIRS HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT. SYRIA HAS WORKED RESPONSIBLY AND AT HEAVY COST TO RESTORE STABILITY AND SECURITY IN LEBANON. SYRIA HAS HELPED TO FOSTER CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A NATIONAL LEBANESE CONSENSUS CAN BE DEVELOPED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT SARKIS. THESE EFFORTS HAVE WON THE SUPPORT OF LEBANON'S FRIENDS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES.

5. IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE FORTIFIED BY THE GREATER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THAT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN US. NOTHING HAS PLEASED ME SO GREATLY SINCE THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN 1974 AS THE INCREASINGLY REGULAR AND MORE INTIMATE DIALOGUE OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CARRY ON IN THE LAST YEAR. I WILL LONG REMEMBER WITH SPECIAL FEELINGS THE BEGINNINGS OF THAT DIALOGUE, AND IN PARTICULAR THE MANY TIMES YOU MET ME AT ALL HOURS AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT DURING THE MAY, 1974 SHUTTLE. OUR TALKS TOGETHER ON THOSE AND OTHER OCCASIONS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF A UNIQUE CHAPTER IN DIPLOMATIC HISTORY.

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6. IN MY PERHAPS QUIETER LIFE, I WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW WITH THE KEENEST INTEREST YOUR PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN FUTURE STEPS TOWARDS THE PEACE WE SEEK. HEARTENED AS I HAVE BEEN BY NEWS THAT YOU AND MRS. KHADDAM ARE RECOVERING SATISFACTORILY FROM YOUR INJURIES, I OFFER THE TWO OF YOU MY BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

HENRY A. KISSINGER
- -
END QUOTE.
KISSINGER

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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SAS ID: 3594906
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Subject: SECRETARY\'S FAREWELL MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM
TAGS: PSDC, SY, US, XF, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM), (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
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